

if followed swallow for swallow with Perrier water,
no antacids will be necessary.

I thought of expanding this poem into an article
for Holiday magazine,

but I'm not sure the public is ready for my method.

THREE TO BOGGLE THE MIND

i

I was riding the freeway
when I heard him say it, honest to God,
this very high official in our government:

"We have the most perfect system in the world;
the problem lies in getting it to work."

ii

At home I picked up the sports section.
The headlines read:
"Walton unimpressive in Madison Square Garden."
Closer reading revealed the reference was to
an interview with sportswriters.

iii

Finally, at my daughter's back-to-school night,
the teacher said, "Her nose is always in a book,
but I don't think we ought to worry yet."

THE NADIR OF AMERICAN POETRY

In the middle of the Arizona desert
they passed a huge Picasso billboard.

"What's that?" she asked.

"Oh," he replied,

"just another roadside abstraction."

THE DECLINE OF EDUCATION

As I was waiting for the elevator
a student asked me,
"What floor is 419 on?"

The felony was compounded when I remembered
that 419 is the English office.